SOME

REASONS

Humbly Offered to the

Parliament of GREAT BRITAIN,

FOR

Making more effectual an Act made 8 *Ann. cap.* 49. intitled, " *An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by veſting* " *the Copies of printed Books in the Authors or Purchaſers* " *of ſuch Copies*, &c.

THE Author of the *General Abridgment of Law and Equity* having made a great Progreſs many Years ſince in compiling thereof, a Gentleman who had ſeen and looked into Part of the Manuſcript expreſſing his Surprize at the Sight of ſuch a Work, propoſed the ſhewing it to ſome of the Judges, and to introduce the Author to them, who upon ſeeing thereof ſeemed well pleaſed with it, and gave him Encouragement for printing the ſame.

Sometime afterwards the Author printed off a Volume for a Specimen to be laid before the Lord Chancellor and the Judges, which after about ſix Months Conſideration they approved of, and a general *Imprimatur* was ſigned by all the Judges.

After Publication of the Third Volume, a further Approbation of the ſaid Work, by the Lord Chancellor and all the Judges in *Ireland* becoming Subſcribers for the ſame, was tranſmitted to the Author by a Right Honourable Hand.

Under ſuch great Encouragement and Protection, and likewiſe of the Statute made 8 *Ann. cap.* 49. intitled, " *An Act for the Encouragement* " *of Learning, by veſting the Copies of printed Books in the Authors or* " *Purchaſers of ſuch Copies during the Time therein mentioned*," the Terms and Conditions in the ſaid Act required have been punctually performed and complied with by the Author, he could not but think himſelf intirely ſecure of enjoying his Property; and depending on ſuch Patronage and Protection, he hath publiſhed Fourteen Volumes.

But

But notwithſtanding all this, Advertiſements have been publiſhed in the *Dublin* News-papers, and Propoſals other ways have been made there, and in other Parts of *Ireland*, for printing the ſaid Work, whereby the Author (who is as yet a conſiderable Sum of Money out of Pocket on Account of his ſaid Work) will be greatly damnified.

The ſaid Act of Queen *Anne* expreſſes the Encouragement to be for the compoſing and writing uſeful Books, (which this Work is ſolemnly allowed to be) and the Author is ready to proceed in printing whenever he can ſafely venture upon it.

A Work of this Kind was recommended by great Perſons of the Law upwards of Two Hundred Years paſt and downwards to this very Time, but has been looked upon as a Thing almoſt or altogether impoſſible to be finiſhed by One and the ſame Perſon. But now that is ſo done at a great Expence and immenſe Pains, a Contrivance, as before mentioned, is ſet on foot to rob and ſtrip him of his Property therein.

This in effect is telling the World, that tho' for the Encouragement of Learning an Act was made for ſecuring the Properties of Authors, *&c.* in *Great Britain*, yet we Bookſellers and Printers here in *Ireland* will do what thoſe in *Great Britain* dare not; and let the Conſequence be the Diſcouragement of Learning, or the Ruin of Authors, *&c.* and their Families, (which the ſaid Act provided againſt) or be it what elſe it will, we value it not, but will proceed as we pleaſe.

By a Letter to the Author dated the 3d of *January* laſt from *Dublin*, with a News-paper of the ſame Date incloſed called the *Dublin Journal*, in which was an Advertiſement as to the printing the Author's ſaid Works there, the Author was told, " That the Bookſellers in *Ireland* tell their " Cuſtomers that there will be a cheaper Edition, which hinders the " Sale of the Author's; that they propoſe allowing a Profit to the Trade " of 25 *l. per Cent.* that the *Iriſh* Edition will be printed Page for Page " the ſame with the Author's, which will make it very difficult to diſ- " cover one Edition from the other; that *Wood*'s Inſtitutes, Mr. *Peer* " *Williams*'s Reports, *Freeman*'s, *Talbot*'s, and other Reports, have been " printed in *Ireland* with good Succeſs."

And about half a Year before, the Author was told by a famous *London* Bookſeller, that in Seven Years Time his Work would be ſold for waſte Paper; which can admit of no other Interpretation than the Method propoſed to be taken, as before mentioned, in *Ireland*.

If an Author is to be robbed of his Property, it is the ſame Miſchief to him whether it be done in *England*, *Scotland*, or *Ireland*.

As to the printing the Work in *Ireland* Page for Page the ſame with the Author's, that alone will not be ſufficient to prevent the Diſcovery of the one Edition from the other; and therefore to make the Cheat compleat, the Title Page muſt not expreſs its being printed at *Dublin*, but muſt be the ſame *verbatim* with the Author's as to the Place where and

Harvard College Library
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September 9, 1941.